



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

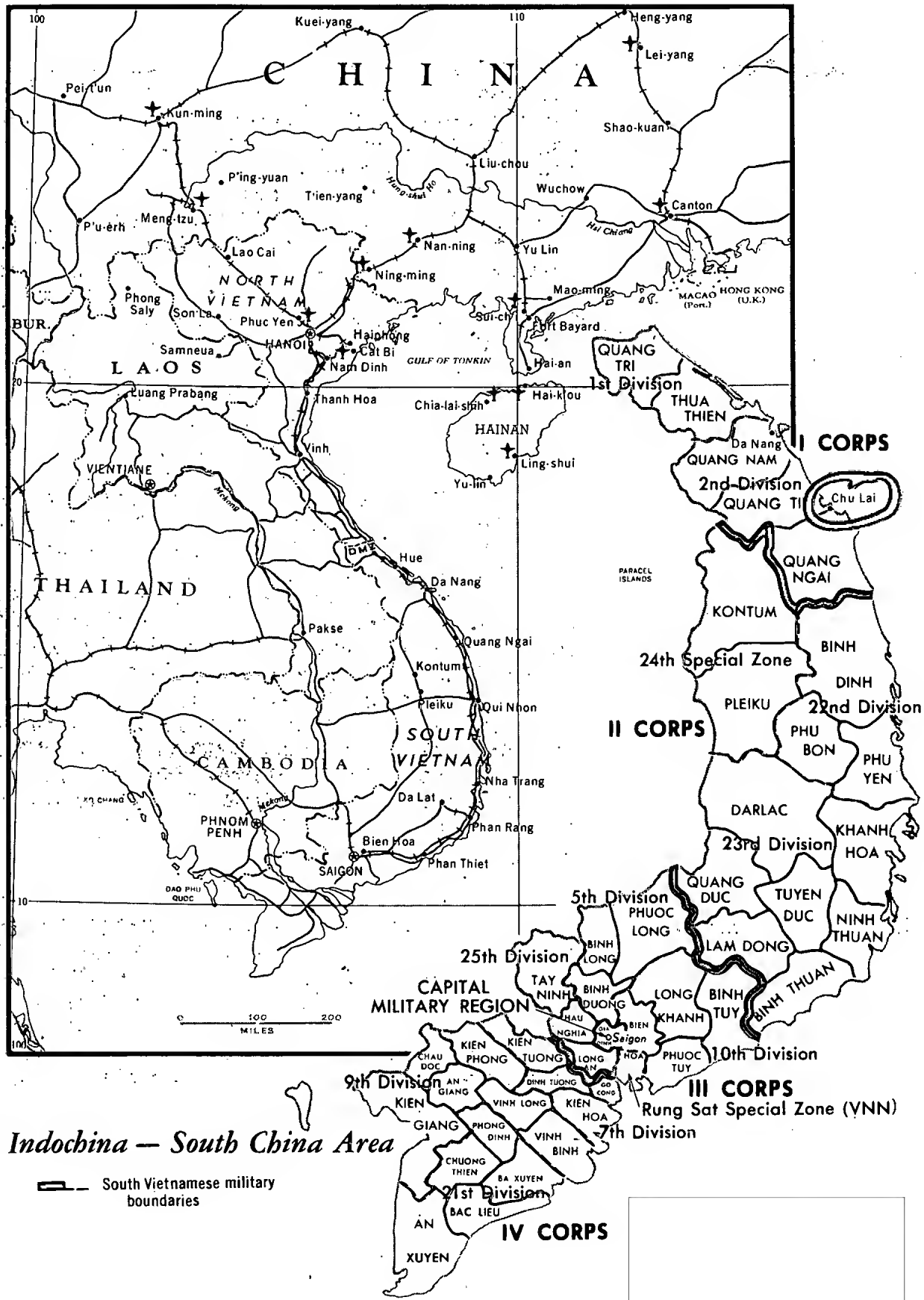
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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20 AUGUST 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

US Marine units in the fight for Van Tuong near Chu Lai report that villagers were highly cooperative, pointing out to them Viet Cong concentrations and fortifications.

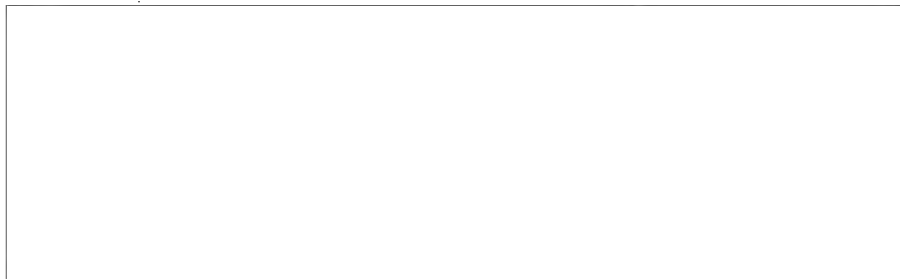
This is encouraging. All too often, the rural populace, either resenting government intrusions or fearing Viet Cong reprisals after the departure of government forces, is reluctant to volunteer such information to government forces.

The helpful attitude reported from Van Tuong may result from a combination of factors, including resentment against the material demands levied on the peasantry by the large Viet Cong force and the surprise appearance of an overwhelming array of US force. The publicity accorded their help, however, will probably make them vulnerable to Viet Cong reprisals when US forces leave.

There is some reason to suspect that in Bangkok Premier Ky and the Thais will go into mutual support for the Cambodian exile Khmer Serei movement based in both Thailand and South Vietnam.

In Ky's absence, rumors of neutralist coup plotting are beginning to crop up. So far, these appear to have little substance and may merely be symptomatic of the uneasiness of some circles in Saigon.

2. North Vietnam



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3. Indonesia

The heavy-handed pressures against US facilities and interests are evidently still on, even though Sukarno's Independence Day speech was less venomous than had been expected. A petition signed by provincial officials this week demands the ouster of the American consul in Surabaya in eastern Java, where an anti-US riot was staged on 7 August.

Yesterday, a government-controlled English-language newspaper printed an editorial giving a "last warning" to the US to change its policies before "everything" is lost.

4. Congo

Tshombé's talks with Ambassador Knight in Brussels yesterday show that the split between the Congo premier and President Kasavubu is as deep as ever. Tshombé claims to have offered Kasavubu his support for re-election to the presidency in order to save the situation, but believes--rightly--that Kasavubu is still scheming against him.

The struggle will be renewed, to the detriment of the Congo's government, when Tshombé returns to Leopoldville, probably tomorrow.

5. Tanzania

Indications are accumulating that leaders in Dar-es-Salaam are having second thoughts about their militant support for the Congo rebels and other dissident Africans. They apparently fear what might be done with the large amount of arms stored in their country and are concerned over the effects of their policies on their search for Western aid.

6. USSR

A major space event appears to be in the works, possibly to take place in the next week or two. All six space support ships in the Pacific are at sea. Three of the ships are still on station at the ICBM range impact area, but it would take only a few days to move them to suitable positions for a space event.

7. Dominican Republic

No new break in the negotiations has been reported. [redacted]

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[redacted] rebel extremists are still cooking up maneuvers to delay a settlement, on the premise that the longer the rebels can hold out, the more people can be trained for the "real fight."

A member of the United Nations staff meanwhile has revealed that Mayobre, the head of the United Nations group, is again exceeding his observer's mandate by making proposals for restructuring the Dominican armed forces. Ambassador Bunker comments that any such plan is likely to be prejudicial to US interests.

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